

REMARKS

Claims 20, 30, and 87 have been amended and claim 29 canceled herein. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 20, 23, 24, 30, 31, 49, 52-60, 87, 90, 91, 96-98, 125, and 128-136 will be pending in the above-identified application.

Applicants acknowledge the allowance or allowability of claims 49, 52-60, 125 and 128-136. Applicants acknowledge the provisional allowability of claims 24, 29, 30, 91, and 97.

Section 112 - Claims 20, 23, 24, 30, 31, 87, 90, 91, and 96-98

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 20, 23, 24, 30, 31, 87, 90, 91, and 96-98 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The claims have been amended to recite a polarizing plate that is movable into and out of an optical path of light made incident on the liquid crystal device. Substantially the same feature is recited in allowed claim 58 and described in use in allowed claim 134. As amended, the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Section 102 - Claims 20, 23, 31, 87, 90, and 98

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 20, 23, 31, 87, 90, and 98 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,549,185 (Hatano).

Claims 20, 23, and 31

Each of claims 20, 23, and 31 has been amended to include subject matter from claim 29, which was identified as being allowable in the previous Office action. In the present Office action, claim 29 is rejected only under Section 112 for depending on claim 20 and that rejection has been overcome as described above. Accordingly, claim 20 and the claims depending therefrom contain allowable subject matter.

Further, each of claims 20, 23, and 31 recite a liquid crystal device and a pulse control unit for changing the transmittance of light made incident on the liquid crystal

device from a current transmittance into a target transmittance by sequentially applying at least two distinct drive pulses to the liquid crystal device, wherein the at least two drive pulses include a first drive pulse having a first pulse height and a first pulse width and a second drive pulse having a second pulse height and a second pulse width, and wherein the first pulse height is greater than the second pulse height and/or the first pulse width is greater than the second pulse width. Hatano discloses a liquid crystal display "A" and a drive circuit "B" connected thereto. See Fig. 1. Hatano fails to disclose a liquid crystal device and a pulse control unit for changing the transmittance of light made incident on the liquid crystal device from a current transmittance into a target transmittance by sequentially applying at least two distinct drive pulses to the liquid crystal device, wherein the at least two drive pulses include a first drive pulse having a first pulse height and a first pulse width and a second drive pulse having a second pulse height and a second pulse width and the first pulse height is greater than the second pulse height and/or the first pulse width is greater than the second pulse width. The Office action appears to agree. See e.g., Office action, page 4, line 19, to page 5, line 5. In addition, Hatano fails to disclose a polarizing plate that is movable into and out of an optical path of light made incident on the liquid crystal device, as recited in each of claims 20, 23, and 31. The Office action also appears to agree. See e.g., Office action, page 5, lines 15-19.

Claims 87, 90, and 98

Each of claims 87, 90, and 98 recites a method of driving a light modulation apparatus including a liquid crystal device, comprising changing the transmittance of light made incident on the liquid crystal device from a current transmittance into a target transmittance by sequentially applying at least two distinct drive pulses to the liquid crystal device, wherein the light modulation apparatus includes a polarizing plate that is movable into and out of an optical path of light made incident on the liquid crystal device, wherein the at least two drive pulses include a first drive pulse having a first pulse height and a first pulse width and a second drive pulse having a second pulse height and a second pulse width, and wherein the first pulse height is greater than the second pulse height and/or the first pulse width is greater than the second pulse width.

Hatano fails to disclose changing the transmittance of light made incident on the liquid crystal device from a current transmittance into a target transmittance by

sequentially applying at least two distinct drive pulses to the liquid crystal device, wherein the light modulation apparatus includes a polarizing plate that is movable into and out of an optical path of light made incident on the liquid crystal device, wherein the at least two drive pulses include a first drive pulse having a first pulse height and a first pulse width and a second drive pulse having a second pulse height and a second pulse width, and wherein the first pulse height is greater than the second pulse height and/or the first pulse width is greater than the second pulse width. The Office action lists these features (i.e., a method of driving a light modulation apparatus including a liquid crystal device wherein the light modulation apparatus includes a polarizing plate that is movable into and out of an optical path of light made incident on the liquid crystal device) among the features that the prior art fails to show. See Office action, page 5, lines 15-19.

Further, Hatano fails to disclose sequentially applying at least two distinct drive pulses wherein the at least two drive pulses include a first drive pulse having a first pulse height and a first pulse width and a second drive pulse having a second pulse height and a second pulse width and the first pulse height is greater than the second pulse height and/or the first pulse width is greater than the second pulse width. The Office action also lists these features (i.e., changing the transmittance of light made incident on the liquid crystal device by sequentially applying at least two distinct drive pulses to the liquid crystal device, wherein the at least two drive pulses include a first drive pulse having a first pulse height and a first pulse width and a second drive pulse having a second pulse height and a second pulse width and the first pulse height is greater than the second pulse height and/or the first pulse width is greater than the second pulse width) among features that the prior art fails to show. See Office action, page 4, line 19, to page 5, line 5.

Because the reference fails to show every feature of the claims, the rejection is improper. Accordingly, Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

As the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, favorable action and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Although the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance is factually correct, Applicants believe the Examiner's statement does not set forth all of the distinctions between the claims and the prior art.

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Respectfully submitted,

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